

CONGRESSMAN BOUCHER ANNOUNCES \$200,000 TO IMPROVE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN BUCHANAN, DICKENSON, LEE, RUSSELL, SMYTH, WASHINGTON AND WISE COUNTIES

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□□□□□□□□□□(Washington, D.C.) – U.S. Representative Rick Boucher announced today that, at his urging, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, through its Rural Health Workforce Development Program, has awarded a grant of \$200,000 to Stone Mountain Health Services. The federal funds will be used to improve mental health services available in Buchanan, Dickenson, Lee, Russell, Smyth, Washington and Wise Counties.

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With the benefit of the federal funds, Stone Mountain Health Services, which operates 11 community health clinics in seven counties, will work cooperatively with East Tennessee State University and Radford University to implement a training program that enables students to complete clinical programs in psychology, social work or counseling at Stone Mountain Health Services clinics. The students will complete sufficient hours to meet the state’s licensure requirements. Students will be supervised both by health professionals at the clinics as well as faculty at the two schools.

“One of my highest priorities is expanding access to high quality health care services for residents of the Ninth District, regardless of their ability to pay. The federal funding announced today will help achieve this goal by training mental health professionals to meet the demand for mental health services in rural areas,” Bouc
her concluded.

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